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CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NOOTER, RBERT H.)

SUBJ: BIO SKETCHES FOR NOOTER VISIT: MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION QAYUM

REF: KABUL 8102

FOR NEA:PAB SCHIFFERDECKER

- 1. ABDUL QAYUM (LAST NAME WARDAK DROPPED AS TRIBAL NAMES NO LONGER USED) APPOINTED MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES AGUGUST 1973 AS DAOUD WAS FORMING HIS POST-COUP CABINET. ON THE (REQUESTED) RESIGNATION OF NEHMATULLAH PAZHWAK AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION DECEMBER 18, QAYUM WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF THAT MINISTRY ALSO.
- 2. QAYUM STUDIED PHYSICS IN THE U.S. AND HAS A PH.D. FROM THE USSR. HE RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN AND HEADED THE SCIENCE FACULTY, KABUL UNIVERSITY. HIS WIFE STUDIED EDUCATION IN THE US, WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND IS BELIEVED BY MANY AFGHANS TO BE AN "EXTREME LEFTIST." THIS IS A DESIGNATION, HOWEVER, TO BE TAKEN WITH A PILLAR OF SALT.
- 3. QAYUM. 51, IS TACITURN, "STONY FACED", A GOOD LISTENER OFFERING LITTLE RESPONSE. HE IS GOOD AT MEETINGS, DIRECT AND DECISIVE. THIS MAY COME FROM FACT THAT HE IS BASICALLY SCIENTIST ALTHOUGH AS ACADEMICIAN AND WITH HIS UNIVERSITY BACKGROUND HE IS SOMETHING OF A "FISH OUT OF WATER" IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES. HIS POLITICAL VIEWS

ARE NATIONALIST AND PRAGMATIC, THOUGH MANY SAY HIS WIFE
DOMINATES HIM AND THEREFORE IS SOMETHING OF A "LEFTIST."
QAYUM SPEAKS ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN.
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Subject: BIO SKETCHES FOR NOOTER VISIT: MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION QAYUM

TAGS: OVIP, (NOOTER, ROBERT H)
To: STATE

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